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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the International Federation of Liberal Youth, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[14 February 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.16-02417(E)

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On the humanitarian crisis and the situation developing in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

In recent months the grave political situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (hereinafter referred to as Venezuela) tends to worsen. Although, the results of parliamentary elections held in Venezuela on December 6, 2015 represented an opportunity for change, the political, economic and social situation is deteriorating very rapidly and there are no signs of the government intending to rectify. As a result, the Venezuelan people have only seen a decline in quality of life.

Shortages of basic food and medicine is alarming; the health system is in the worst condition and there is no treatment even for chronic diseases. Added to this, rates of dead human beings are increasing due to the lack of medical care.

Insecurity in Venezuela have reached record levels. Caracas, the capital, is the most violent city in the world - during 2015 there were 27,000 killed people as a result of insecurity and violence.

The political landscape is increasingly difficult in a time when there are still political prisoners, persecution, torture and systematic human rights violation. This is in addition to the unstable political system that makes it unpredictable what will happen in the coming months. All this is compounded by the fall in oil prices, which seems to mean the intensification of the crisis in Venezuela with no visible solution in the short-term.

In IFLRY we have been monitoring the situation since last October, and within our last Executive Committee held in Dominican Republic, we approved a resolution that will be discussed at our next General Assembly in April.

This resolution expresses our concern about the crisis in Venezuela and exhorted to different organizations and individuals to take action to prevent the situation from worsening. However, despite this, the Federation is concerned about the rapid deterioration of the minimum conditions that any country should have to move forward.

In 2012, Venezuela was elected as a member of the Council of Human Rights of the United Nations and was re-elected in 2015. As such, the country has a strong obligation to ensure the basic human rights of its citizens, an issue that the current situation makes difficult to verify.

In conclusion, the International Federation of Liberal Youth, calls upon member and observer States at the Human Rights Council to:

•Urge the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report regularly and publicly on the human rights situation in the country, through the various Special Rapporteurs in the areas of:

•Extreme Poverty and Human Rights
•Right to Food
•Freedom of Opinion and Expression
•Human Rights Defenders
•Independence of Judges and Lawyers
•International Solidarity
•Torture

•Urge to the World Health Organization to verify the state of the Venezuelan health system and shortages of medicines, in order to recommend solutions to this serious problem.

•Urge the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to verify the actual situation of food shortages in Venezuela.

•To request Venezuela, as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, to present facts and data on the current situation on human rights.

•Check the status of political prisoners and persecuted, disabled politicians and call again for their immediate release and removal of these actions.

•Taking into account the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, to supplement the information on the situation in Venezuela and possible solutions, understanding the responsibility of Venezuela as a member of the Inter-American System.